

Message Text

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44

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 /069 W

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O R 251423Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2554

INFO AMEMBASSY BLANTYRE

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L PRETORIA 3207

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, ZA, RH, PINS

SUBJECT: VORSTER-KAUNDA MEETING OVERSHADOWS BRIDGE TALKS

REF: LUSAKA 1613

1. SMITH'S BULAWAYO SPEECH (REFTEL) HAS ALSO BEEN SUBJECT OF PRESS SPECULATION HERE. AUGUST 24 SUNDAY TIMES SUGGESTED THAT STATEMENT THAT HE WOULD NOT HAND OVER RHODESIA "OTHER THAN TO THE CONSTITUTIONALLY-ELECTED GOVERNMENT" MIGHT BE A "SUBTLE NUANCE" INDICATING THAT, IF TWO SIDES COULD AGREE ON NEW CONSTITUTIONAL FORMULA, SMITH WOULD NOT OPPOSE MAJORITY RULE BROUGHT ABOUT BY PROPER ELECTORAL PROCESS.

2. IN ANY EVENT, SMITH'S STATEMENT AND, INDEED, HIS VICTORIA FALLS' TALKS WITH ANC HAVE TAKEN BACK SEAT TO PRESS AND PUBLIC INTEREST IN VORSTER-KAUNDA MEETING. WHETHER
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ANC-SMITH TALKS FURTHER CAUSE OF RHODESIAN SETTLEMENT OR

NOT (AND SOUTH AFRICAN PRESS GENERALLY PESSIMISTIC) NEWS
THAT KAUNDA FORMALLY ACKNOWLEDGING STATUS OF SOUTH AFRICA
AS SERIOUS PARTNER IN REGIONAL DETENTE IS BEING HAILED
AS OF PARAMOUNT IMPORTANCE TO SAG.

3. COMMENT: FROM WHAT WE KNOW OF SAG DIPLOMATIC INTENTIONS
IN AFRICA, VORSTER-KAUNDA MEETING CONSTITUTES GREATEST
ACHIEVEMENT YET IN SAG'S DIALOGUE POLICY WITH BLACK AFRICA.
WE ESTIMATE THAT WHITE PUBLIC SUPPORT FOR VORSTER GOVERNMENT
(DESPITE SOME CARPING FROM FAR RIGHT) HAS, WITH ANNOUNCEMENT
OF HIS MEETING WITH KAUNDA, NEVER BEEN HIGHER.
BOWDLER

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